Research Notes on Honora Brown (1793 -)

Research Overview

Honora Brown left Ireland in the early nineteenth century and settled in Montréal decades before large-scale Irish migration made such movement common. Her children's baptisms place her in Canada by 1813, when she was still a young woman, and among the earliest Irish families recorded in the city. The records do not explain why she left Ireland around 1812 or whether Montréal was her intended destination. They show only that she established her family in a place and climate very different from the one she left behind.

Honora first appears in the record through the baptisms of her children, beginning in 1813 and continuing for nearly two decades. These records place her consistently in Montréal at a time when many early immigrant women are difficult to trace beyond a single event. Although no marriage record has been identified, the French Canadian parish registers repeatedly record Honora Brown alongside John Flaherty as a mother, providing steady documentation of her large family.

While her husband's occupation as a butcher appears in the record, Honora herself is visible almost entirely through childbirth, loss, and continuity. The parish registers trace her adult life through the births and deaths of her children rather than through independent identifiers. This is not unusual for women of her time, but in Honora's case, the regularity of these records allows her life in Montréal to be followed with unusual clarity across many years.

Several of Honora's daughters died in Montréal, while one daughter died many years later in Michigan. Honora herself died in Montréal, closing a life that began in Ireland and unfolded largely within that city. She crossed the Atlantic early, remained rooted in one place, and is known primarily through the family she raised there.

Timeline

1795 - Birth of Honora Brown in Ireland (place not known).

c. 1812 - Marriage to John Flaherty in Ireland or Montreal, Canada

20 Jul 1813 - Baptism of daughter Catherine Flaherty (1813–1890) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Apr 1820 - Baptism of daughter Mary Flaherty (1820–1889) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Aug 1822 - Baptism of daughter Hannah Flaherty (1822–1867) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

29 Oct 1824 - Baptism of son William Flaherty (1824–) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Feb 1827 - Baptism of daughter Helene Flaherty (1827–) in Canada

Mar 1829 - Baptism of daughter Ann Flaherty (1829–) in Canada

1831 - Baptism of daughter Elizabeth Flaherty (1831–1847) in Canada

5 Aug 1847 - **Death of daughter Elizabeth Flaherty** (1831–1847) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Sep 1867 - Death of daughter Hannah Flaherty (1822–1867) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

5 Apr 1889 - Death of daughter Mary Flaherty (1820–1889) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

8 Nov 1890 - **Death of daughter Catherine Flaherty** (1813–1890) at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Death - Montreal, Quebec, Canada (date not known)